

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Brenda Leeds Binder on Thursday 11/13/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

10. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a stem of a character outline, comprising:
in one or more computers performing operations comprising:

selecting a hinted stem placement policy from a set of policies comprising at least either a black-edge policy or an unbiased-stems policy, where a black edge policy considers stem width when determining stem placement and an unbiased-stems policy considers stem spread when determining stem placement;

placing a character defined by a font program with reference to a coarse grid and an overlapping fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that is placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

processing the stem before rendering the character for output on ~~[[the]]~~ an output device in accordance with the selected policy,

wherein, processing the stem in accordance with the black-edge policy includes:

rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

determining the stem width; and

if the stem width is at least one coarse cell, moving the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

35. (Currently Amended) A method for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, comprising:

in one or more computers performing operations comprising:

defining a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells;

placing a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that is placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

processing the stem before rendering the character for output on the output device including performing an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy, wherein the unbiased-stems policy considers stem spread when determining stem placement.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, comprising:

in one or more computers performing operations comprising:

defining a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells, the grids defining edges of the cells;

placing a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that are placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

processing the stem before rendering the character for output on the output device, including performing a black-edge hinted stem placement policy, wherein performing a black-edge policy comprises:

rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;
determining the stem width; and

if the stem width is at least one coarse cell, moving the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phu K. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272 7645. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (571) 272 7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phu K. Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2628